

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Response to Non-Final Office Action is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action mailed to Applicants on March 9, 2007. This Response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the REJECTION.

Claims 1-4, and 16-18 have been amended. Claim 20 has been canceled. Claim 21 has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Within the Non-Final Office Action, Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 20 has been canceled, so this rejection is now moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Prior Art (Okada)

U.S. Patent No. 5,184,830 (Okada), apparently teaches a hand-held electronic game machine for use with attachable/detachable memory packs wherein the game machine can be connected with others via a linking cable for simultaneous multiple player competition.

Okada shows a display device as being integral to the hand held device and not using an external display device, such as a television. Since Okada does not teach an external output device, it follows that Okada does not include an audio-visual interface for controlling the external display device, much less an audio-visual interface that is functionally integrated with a player interface.

Okada teaches that a hand held provides a serial transfer for simultaneous game multi-player competition. However, Okada does not teach that the game machine is coupled to a general-purpose computer, connectivity with other remote players over a network, or a remote server that scores the contest between players. Moreover, the game machines that are coupled together in Okada are peers; there are no supplemental consoles described. As described in col. 1, lines 47-51, "Where the game involves two players, for example, a linking cable is pluggably connected between the two game machines with identical game program memory packs attached to each machine."

The Prior Art Distinguished (Okada)

The Examiner relies upon Okada to reject Claims 1 and 16-18 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). To anticipate a claim, a reference must teach each and every element of the claim.

Claim 1 includes the language:

control circuitry, coupled to the housing, having capabilities of a console and a controller;
a player input interface coupled to the housing for receiving input from a local user to the control circuitry to control actions associated with a multiplayer game;
an audio-visual input interface, coupled to the housing, for receiving input from the local user to the control circuitry to control audio or video characteristics of an external display device, wherein the controller input interface and the console input interface are functionally integrated;
a network interface coupled to the housing, wherein network connectivity is provided via the network interface to enable the local user to play the multiplayer game with at least one remote user over a network.

Since Okada does not disclose a player input interface integrated with an audio-visual interface for controlling an external display device, claim 1 is allowable over Okada. In

addition, Okada does not disclose a network interface to enable a local user to play with a remote user. Claim 1 is therefore allowable.

Claims 2-15, which depend from claim 1, are allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim and potentially for other reasons as well. For example, claim 4 includes the language:

a communication interface to at least one general purpose computing device;
software including at least one element capable of supporting interactive communication between the integrated console controller and the general purpose computing device.

Since Okada does not disclose coupling the game machines to a general purpose computing device, claim 4 is allowable for this additional reason.

As another example, claim 6 includes the language, "the communication interface includes an input from a substantially remote supplemental console." Since Okada does not disclose a supplemental console, claim 6 is allowable for this additional reason.

Claim 16 includes the language:

a hand-held integrated console controller;
an external display device associated with the hand-held integrated console controller;
a general purpose computing device having memory including software capable of receiving inputs from the hand-held integrated console controller, the software including elements capable of generating a signal capable of being communicated to the external display device;
a secure processor capable of executing or interpreting at least some instructions in the software, and capable of controlling operation of the

software, whereby only authorized software can be executed or interpreted in association with the hand-held integrated console controller; a network server for scoring an online multiplayer game played by a user of the hand-held integrated console controller and one or more remote users.

Since Okada does not disclose an external display device, a general purpose computing device, and a network server, claim 16 is allowable of Okada. Claims 17-19, which depend from claim 16, are allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim and potentially for other reasons, as well.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada in view of U.S. Patent 5,426,763 (Okada2). The applicants respectfully assert that Okada2 suffers from the same deficiencies as Okada. Accordingly, claims 2 and 19 are allowable over Okada and Okada2, whether considered alone or in combination.

The Examiner has rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada in view of U.S. Patent 6,544,126 (Sawano). The applicants respectfully assert that even if Sawano discloses replacing or upgrading software, and the applicants are not here providing an opinion here as to whether Sawano does in fact disclose replacing or upgrading software, Sawano suffers from the same deficiencies as Okada. Accordingly, claim 3 is allowable over Okada and Sawano, whether considered alone or in combination.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-6 and 8-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada in view of U.S. Patent 6,500,070 (Tomizawa). As is illustrated in FIG. 1 of Tomizawa, multiple relatively local portable game machines 10 are coupled to a video game machine 20 via communication cables 30. Notably, the game machines are **not** coupled to the video game machine via a network. Also, a first of the

game machines cannot be characterized as local if a second is characterized as remote because their locality is the same. There is no indication that the game machines include integrated controls for playing the game *and* controlling the characteristics of the display 40 (see, e.g., FIG. 1). For any or all of these reasons, Tomizawa fails to make up for the deficiencies of Okada. Accordingly, the claims are allowable over Okada and Tomizawa, whether considered alone or in combination.


New Claims

The applicants respectfully assert that claim 21 is allowable over the cited prior art for reasons at least similar to those described above. For example, claim 21 claims a television, a network, a workstation, a remote server, and a remote user, none of which are described in Okada.

Conclusion

No new subject matter has been added by way of the above amendments. For the reasons given above, the applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-19 are now in a condition for allowance. The applicant respectfully requests that all rejections be withdrawn and the application be allowed at the earliest date possible. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is encouraged to call the undersigned at 650-838-4305 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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